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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/669,740	09/24/2003	Jin Shenghao	15865.3a.1	4495

7590 08/16/2007
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EXAMINER

AYRES, TIMOTHY MICHAEL

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3637

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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08/16/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/669,740

Applicant(s)

SHENGHAO ET AL.

Examiner

Timothy M. Ayres

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 July 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,5-7,9,10 and 12-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,5-7,9,10 and 12-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 7/30/07 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

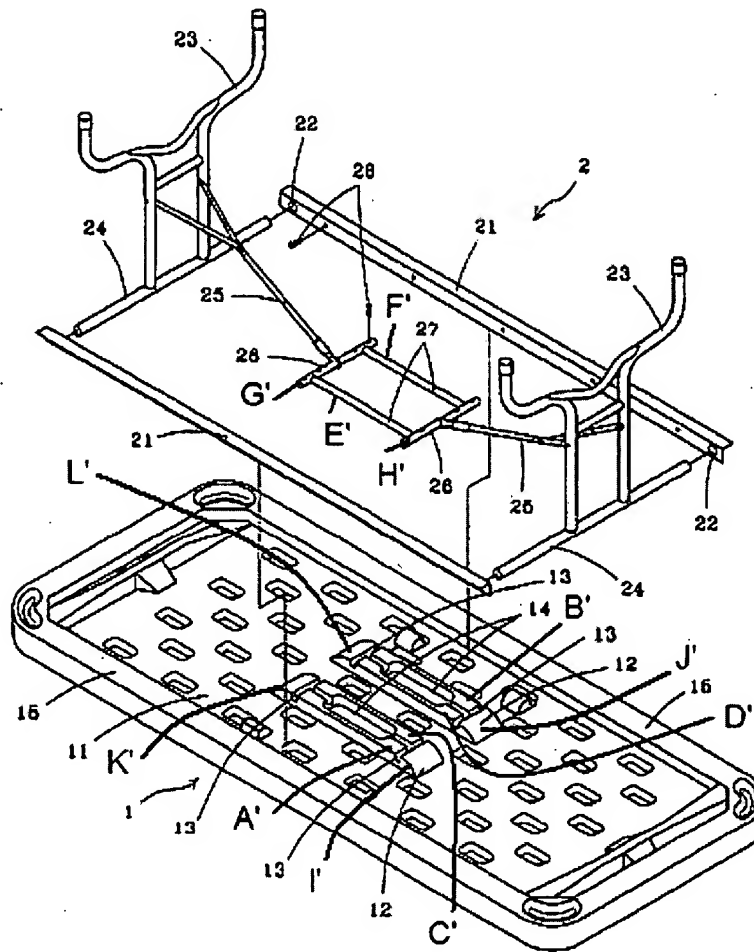
2. Claims 1, 2, 5-7, 9, 10 and 12-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent Publication 2003/0233967 to Lin. Lin teaches a table (1) with a table top. The table top has a top surface and a bottom surface. A mounting structure (12) is centrally disposed on the bottom surface. The mounting structure (12) includes a first generally c-shaped portion (A', I', K') including a center section (A') that is defined by the grooves (13), a first end portion (K') and a second end portion (I'). The mounting structure (12) includes a second generally c-shaped portion (B', J', L') including a center section (B') defined by the grooves (13), a first end portion (L'), and a second end portion (J'). Even though there are grooves between and defining the end portions from center sections, the bottoms of the grooves are still raised from the bottom surface of the tabletop and therefore the end portions are considered connected to the

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center sections. A box-like region is disposed in the bottom surface of the tabletop as defined by the parts of the mounting structures as seen in figure 1. A support assembly (26,27) is partially connected to the mounting structure (12). The center sections (A', B') have a surface that is generally perpendicular to the bottom of the table where the elongated supports (E', F') are attached. Both attachment surfaces are taught as being generally round which are considered to have portions that are generally planar due to the term "generally" being viewed in the broadest reasonable interpretation to encompass a semicircular surface. The support assembly comprises a first elongated support member (E') attached to the center section (A') of the first generally c-shaped portion (A', I', K') of the mounting structure (12) and a spaced apart second elongated support member (F') attached to the center section (B') of second generally c-shaped portion (B', J', L') of the mounting structure (12). A first connecting member (G') is connected to the first support member (E') and the second support member (F'). A frame assembly has a first leg (23), which is attached to the first end of a first support brace (25). The second end of the first support brace is attached to the first connecting member (G') of support assembly (26,27). The mounting structure (12) comprises a pair of C-shaped mounting ridges (A', B') formed in the first portion (A', C') and the second portion (B',D') of the mounting structure (12) as seen in marked up figure 1 below. The mounting structure (12) is formed integrally with the table top. The table top is formed of blow-molded plastic. A second connecting member (H') is connected to the first support member (E') and the second support member (F'). A second leg (23) is movable between a use position and a storage position. A second support brace (25)

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includes a first portion and a second portion. The first portion is attached to the second leg (23) and the second portion is attached to the second connecting member (H') of the support assembly (26,27).



Lin '967 Figure 1

3. Lin does not expressly disclose a first and second connecting member connected to a center section of the first support member and a center section of the second support member, and first and second openings in the first and second elongated support members to allow for the connection of the first and second connecting

members. As seen in figure 1 the first and second connecting members are connected to the ends of the first and second support members. At the time of the invention it would have been obvious for a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the table of Lin by making the connecting members shorter and the support members longer since applicant has not disclosed that having the first and second connecting member connected to a center section of the first support member and a center section of the second support member solves any stated problem or is for any particular purpose and it appears that the support assembly would perform equally well with the first and second connecting members are connected to the centers of the first and second support members since it is functionally equivalent and works equally well.

4. As ascertained from figure 1-3, it appears that openings on the connecting members receive the elongated support members. It would have been obvious for a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the support assembly of Lin by having the openings on the elongated support members to receive the connecting members, since applicant has not disclosed that having the openings on the elongated support members solves any stated problem or is for any particular purpose and it appears that the support assembly would perform equally well with the openings on the elongated support members to receive the connecting members since it is functionally equivalent and works equally well.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 7/30/07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Both attachment surfaces of the elongated support (E', F') and the center section (A', B') of Lin are taught as being generally round which is considered to have portions that are generally planar due to the term "generally" being viewed in the broadest reasonable interpretation to encompass a semicircular surface.

Conclusion

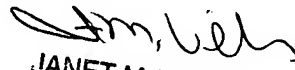
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Timothy M. Ayres whose telephone number is (571) 272-8299. The examiner can normally be reached on MON-THU 8:00 - 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lanna Mai can be reached on (571) 272-6867. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

TMA
7/31/07



JANET M. WILKENS
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ATU 43637